

JUN. 24. 2011 10:05AM

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

MARK BEGICH
ALASKA

230516
NO. 1637 P. 2/3

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 21, 2011

Mr. Matthew Wallen
Director
Surface Transportation Board
Office of Public Assistance, Government Affairs
and Compliance
Washington, DC 20423-0001
Attention: Mary Turek, Congressional Liason

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JUN 30 2011

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Public Record

Dear Mr. Wallen:

I write on behalf of Alaskan constituent Audrey Faulkner and "Flyaway Farm L.L.C." and in reference to STB Finance Docket No. 35095.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough government is working on a Port Mackenzie rail extension project and recently completed the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in conjunction with the Surface Transportation Board. The constituent asserts that while the final EIS includes a Mac-East Variant Route, it was not part of the draft EIS and therefore was not available for public comment during the process. The Mac-East Variant route intersects private property otherwise known as the MacKenzie Agriculture Project or "Ag Project" which includes land owned by the family of Ms. Faulkner.

Additionally, the constituent has asked about the relocation of the Terminal Reserve area (TRA) and whether it was included in the draft EIS document. According to the Final EIS, the TRA would also be moved to the Ag Project area. It does not appear to the constituent that the TRA was included in the draft EIS.

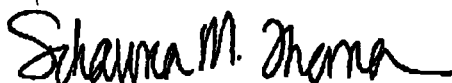
On behalf of our constituent, I request a brief review the EIS process with regard to the two issues mentioned above.

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I would be happy to discuss the questions raised and any other details by phone or email if necessary at 907-271-9303 or Schawna Thoma@begich.senate.gov.

Thank you for looking into this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Schawna M. Thoma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Schawna M. Thoma
Deputy State Director
Office of United States Senator Mark Begich